against 136 in 1087. He pointed out that the supply of good drinking water during the St. Xavier's Festival at Kottar had proved an effectual preventive against the spread of the epidemic.

Nagercoil had become completely damp and insanitary, owing to the profuse flow of percolated water from the Ananthanar Channel and its tributaries and also to the wet cultivation within the town. If immediate steps were not taken, a great portion of the town would, in a short time, become uninhabitable. The improvement of the drainage system was thus rendered absolutely necessary, both as a preventive measure against cholera and other epidemic diseases, and also for comfortable and healthy habitation. The Member, therefore, prayed that the Government might be pleased to concert measures for the speedy supply of good drinking water to the town and for the improvement of the drainage system.

Dewan's reply.—Noted. The town is now within the commanded area of the Kodayar Project. The question of drainage is therefore an urgent one. The Chief Engineer will be asked to investigate and report.

89. Certain works necessary for improving the sanitation of the Town of Trivandrum.

Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) first spoke about the urgent need for improving the Putherikandom Channel. An estimate for the work had been sanctioned, but, for some unknown reason, it appeared to have been dropped. If improved, the canal would be useful as an irrigation channel. There was also a positive evil in leaving it in its present condition. The land on the sides of the canal broke down and water stagnated and emitted unwholesome effluvia. The place was being used by the people for purposes of nature.

Dewan.—There is provision for Rs. 30,000 for building a parapet wall.

The Member said that the wall should be built from the very bottom and brought up. The new building for the Government Secondary School was hardly 50 yards from the channel. He requested that the wall should be constructed as indicated, as early as possible.

The Member next suggested the desirability of converting the lanes in the town into cartable roads and also of improving the lighting of the town. The lanes were now in an insanitary condition. The lighting done was utterly insufficient. In the matter of lighting, the Government should not be chary about spending money from the general revenues, because the town did not exist for the local people alone, and the several works of improvement done were not exclusively for their benefit. The general tax-payers and a large floating population equally profited by them and nobody could think of imposing a local tax on those people. The question had therefore to be viewed by the Government in that aspect and more money should be spent from the general revenues to improve the lighting of the town.

Another point was that the lighting was now in the hands of the Public Works Department. The places where lighting was urgently necessary were the Main road and the Vanchiyoor road joinings. Two lights were required at the latter place. On the road leading from the General Hospital to the Vanchiyur road, 7 or 8 lights were necessary. The P. W. D., which lighted the major lines, should put up the lights at the above places and light them. The Town Improvement Committee should not be saddled with the responsibility.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

90. Municipal topics of local interest.

Mr. S. N. Krishna Iyer, B. A., B. L. (Member, Nominated) said that he would first deal with the dust nuisance in the town of Trivandrum. While all were

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

agreed that the nuisance was one of great magnitude and required to be arrested as early as possible, there had been no attempt at an organised public agitation to redress the growing evil. He then went into a detailed examination of the gravity of the evil arising from the inhalation of dust. Dust was not by any means or in the main only a nuisance and source of public discomfort, but it was a positive menance and indirect public danger of deadly potentiality. The constant inhalation of all kinds of dust predisposed the system to the disease known as tuberculosis. Food-stuffs in Trivandrum were generally kept exposed in the bazaars, and what great injury resulted to the consumers by the action of dust on them could be better imagined than described. The ordinary traffic and the high winds were also working great havoc in the town by raising clouds of dust from the roads. With the advent of motor cars, the sufferings of the townsmen had been greatly accentuated, for, the whole atmosphere would be enveloped in a cloud of dust for a length of at least two furlongs behind a running motor car, and it took nearly quarter of an hour for the dust to settle down. With the ordinary traffic, high wind and the motor cars, the condition of the town roads had thus become highly deplorable. Road-watering was considered an essential part of any well-considered scheme of municipal administration. Having obtained details from a number of Municipalites, he placed before the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee, in December 1913, a proposal to water a portion of the Fort roads, the Chalay Bazaar road and the Main road, a distance of 2½ miles. The estimated cost of watering the roads for the eight hot months of the year was placed before the Committee with the concurrence of all the non-official Members, but he regretted that, with the casting vote of the President, the proposition was lost. He thought that the watering of the roads could not be deferred till a regular system of water-supply distributed by means of pipes was introduced into the town. The watering of roads could be done by an agency of coolies at the rate of 12 per mile of road per day, as was done in several Municipalities, or by means of two motor water-cars, costing about 15 to 20 thousand rupees. The latter would be more efficient and satisfactory. The former could be done by the Committee with the funds at their disposal, and could be immediately carried out, if so ordered. The Government would have to find funds to carry out the latter scheme. In all earnestness, therefore, he recommended the proposition for the consideration of the Government.

Another source of pollution of the atmosphere of the town was the defilement of the unenclosed or partly enclosed Sirkar grounds. He mentioned the Maidan east of the public offices, the brick field behind the Teacher's College, the Vanian-kulam tank, and the premises of the District and Munsiffs' Courts, as instances of the centres of nuisance. It was the duty of every owner of property, whether a private man or the Sirkar, to maintain it in such order as to prevent annoyance and injury to his neighbours and the general public. The enclosing of all open and unoccupied places within the town so as to prevent access to them for improper purposes should be strictly enforced. The Committee would be able to enforce its provisions against private persons, but not against the Sirkar. For three years, he had raised his voice unremittingly and brought to the notice of the Government the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the premises of the District and Munsiffs' Courts, which were nothing short of an extensive and convenient urinal and latrine during day and night. He therefore requested an inspection of the places mentioned and the issue of immediate orders for enclosing them and keeping them clean.

Thirdly, the question of public urinals had been hanging fire for the last twenty years, but nothing practical had been done. Twelve sites had been chosen for the construction of public latrines and were now kept ready for being built upon. If there was any delay in constructing latrines with brick and chunnam, enclosures with bamboo tatties might be temporarily constructed and a proper scavenging service arranged.

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be communicated to the Town Improvement Committee of Trivandrum.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly